## Civil Air Patrol volunteer program supports base

by the 88th ABW Installation Exercise Program Office

In late February, Team Wright-Patterson employed its first Civil Air Patrol-Volunteer Support to the Air Force volunteer

Capt. Dan Gentry, Group VII ground operations director, began working with the Base Readiness Office by assisting with planning for an upcoming Expeditionary Combat Skills Training and Operational Readiness Exercise by scheduling events, securing equipment and facilities and performing other logistical functions.

With deployments throughout the U.S. Air Force, many offices are currently understaffed. The VSAF program allows CAP volunteers – some 56,000 nationwide – a chance to serve their country by providing muchneeded manpower to offices on base.

"This is a wonderful program and a great opportunity not only for the Air

Force but Civil Air Patrol as well," said Capt. Gentry. "The program allows us to build a stronger relationship with the Air Force while demonstrating more of CAP's capabilities."

CAP may participate in future base exercises by using its Satellite Digital Imaging System. Two of Ohio Wing's nine Cessna aircraft are equipped with this technology, which transmits photos in real time to units on the ground.

SDIS has been used for a variety of damage assessment missions, including Sept. 11, and Hurricane Katrina.

As the official auxiliary of the Air Force since 1941, CAP has a rich history of service. The CAP-VSAF partnership builds upon this tradition, with the program's aim to put the right people, at the right place, at the right time.

Contact Group VII Headquarters at gp7cmdr @gmail.com for more information on how to become a CAP volunteer.



Skywrighter photo by Christy Webb

Dan Gentry of the Civil Air Patrol fills in as a volunteer at the Installation Exercise Planning Office while they are short staffed.

## BBB offers help selecting trustworthy businesses

by John North, President & CEO

Better Business Bureau

etermining who to do business with can be challenging. You don't want to give money to a con artist who'll take it and run. You don't want to give it to someone who does shoddy work, which could have you not only paying the shoddy business, but also paying to fix what the shoddy company did.

You can start with trust by contacting your Better Business Bureau. Your BBB is the resource to find unbiased and reliable information. It evaluates the trustworthiness of companies based on a set of high standards so you can have confidence in your choice.

Your Better Business Bureau can provide lists of businesses in specific industries. For instance, if your car has a strange rumble and you don't have a regular mechanic, your BBB can give you a list of BBB Accredited mechanics to help you start your search.

You can also pick up your BBB's Guide To Miami Valley Businesses, its directory of Accredited Businesses, at the Airman and Family Readiness Center. It lists BBB Accredited Businesses by alphabet and type of business. All the companies listed are committed to doing business the right way.

Your BBB can also provide reliability reports on companies. Last year, your BBB gave out over 205,000 reliability reports. They tell you where a company's located, who the principals are and when it opened its doors. It states if the company is a BBB Accredited Business or not, shares its complaint history over 36 months and provides a satisfactory or unsatisfactory rating. Your BBB has nearly 19,000 reliability reports on local Accredited and non Accredited Businesses.

The BBB Air Force Line Web site, www.air-

force.bbb.org, makes BBB services, such as reliability reports and lists of Accredited Businesses, available 24/7, no matter where you're located. You can also call 222-5825 or (800) 776-5301.

In addition to checking companies out with your BBB, you can:

- Ask friends and family for recommendations of companies they've used.
- Check to see if companies belong to trade associations if applicable.
- Verify companies' licensing, bonding or insurance if required in the industry.
- Get referrals from companies and check them

So, don't just open a phonebook and look blindly for a company to do business with. You want one you can trust. Your Better Business Bureau is your go-to resource for saving you time, money and unnecessary headaches.

Save lives — give blood. Visit http://wpmc1.wpafb.af.mil/blood\_donor for information about available blood drives and locations.

